

CD Districts' Concerns

The Community Development District Chairpersons are concerned about the tremendous delays they have encountered in the Community Development Program being implemented in their respective districts. The most pressing concern for the District Chairpersons is the large amounts of unspent CD funds and more specifically, what will happen if the money is not spent? Will the City Council decide to reprogram the CD funds into other eligible categories or City projects?

Below we examine each district:

CHINATOWN AND CENTRAL DISTRICT: This district is gearing up for their annual general meeting at the Lincoln Elementary School, 225 - 11th Street, on November 30th at 7:30 p.m.

The District Board is concerned about the implementation of the Self-Help Paint Program with their District, as well as having low-income homeowners take advantage of weatherized program, i. e., insulation and weather stripping.

The District Board members have expressed their concern to the Off-Street Parking Commission to have an underground parking facility built to alleviate the parking problems in the Chinatown business community.

CENTRAL EAST OAKLAND DISTRICT: In this district residents are concerned that the housing rehabilitation program is not moving in a way to address the problems of this area. Also, there is the problem of unspent money in the area and what is to happen to that money. Many residents have expressed the concern that information from the Office of the City Manager is not available to them in sufficient time to make decisions. There seems to be a new administrative policy now in effect since July, which has a tendency to hamper the flow of information from City Hall. Many residents of this district feel that this is a serious problem. Again, as in all other districts, residents feel that community development is not moving nor working as it should.

FRUITVALE DISTRICT: The Fruitvale District, like many of the other districts, has an ongoing concern about getting the housing rehabilitation program implemented. The district is especially concerned about the need for emergency loans for residents and commercial loans for the local merchants.

The Fruitvale District has requested that funds be allocated for park maintenance, so that the much needed park facilities within the district can be implemented. Many of the Fruitvale District's programs have been approved; however, they are awaiting the release of the funds.

ELMHURST DISTRICT: This district wants to make sure that environmental improvements are coordinated properly in the area. Residents are also concerned with the question of business loans in the area. Many believe that businesses on the East 14th Street Strip are not being treated equitably with businesses in the Central Business District. They plan to study and recommend a solution to the problem.

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NORTH OAKLAND DISTRICT: The North Oakland District is concerned about the enormous delays in getting the Community Development Program implemented in the district. The North Oakland District is especially interested in getting the Neighborhood Environmental Improvement items requested in the first and second year CD application approved and implemented.

Also, the district is bothered by the lack of procedures for getting the street tree planting program implemented.

North Oakland has diligently worked to get a Multi-Service Center established within the district and it appears that a needs' assessment study will be forthcoming. And, finally, the Oakland Public Schools appear to be responding to the community's request for making the defunct Grove Street Campus available for community use. The Park and Recreation Department will be working with the Oakland Public Schools on the final arrangements.

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT: The San Antonio District Board members have expressed their dissatisfaction about the slowness in getting San Antonio's first year Community Development programs implemented, such as the San Antonio Park modernization, the completion of the Central Reservoir Park, and the installing of street trees along 14th Avenue. The District Board will be looking closely at programs not yet implemented from the first year's allocation and the second year Community Development request to ascertain how the City might speed up the implementation of these programs.

During the month of November, the District Board will be meeting to develop program priorities for the third year Community Development Application. Now is the time to give your input, if you live in the San Antonio District.

WEST OAKLAND DISTRICT: The West Oakland District's priority is still the improvement of the existing housing stock. The District would like to have hardship loans made available to the West Oakland residents. The District board members have on numerous occasions indicated their desire to have the Homesteading and Vacant Housing Program expanded into the West Oakland community.

The District Board members have expressed a desire to have loans made available to West Oakland merchants for the improvement and expansion of their businesses. Also, the Board would like to see the City commit more funds to improving the many West Oakland streets in need of resurfacing.

For more information about your district, contact:

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